



METHODIST CIRCUIT

IN TOUCH

April/May 2023

FROM THE MANSE

Welcome to this April-May edition of the *In Touch* magazine.

Just into British Summer Time, we're now benefitting from the lighter evenings. Spring is a favourite season for many folk, a time of particular beauty in the natural world, especially evident across these Isles. Recent weeks have held an increasing buzz of activity on Scilly in preparation for a new season of visitors. Having now completed my second winter, I shared the eagerness with which those gathered on the Quay welcomed Scillonian III on her first sailing of 2023.

During the winter months, a weekly pattern of worship has been maintained in the Methodist Chapels on St. Martin's and St. Mary's. St. Martins have met each Friday afternoon, and on St. Mary's, the form of worship has been varied in style, often in a more participative, less traditional way, meeting in the Chapel hall. I don't think anyone could disagree that the quality of the singing and sense of togetherness are altogether different in the hall. I pray that those positive aspects might continue and be deepened yet further when services revert to the Chapel for the summer months. Watch the notice boards also for a return to the earlier start time on St. Mary's! This was felt to be a positive change last summer and to be repeated this year during the main visitor season.

As during last summer, we again look forward to welcoming a number of visiting preachers to the Circuit's pulpits. We are hopeful of welcoming some visiting musicians too and being encouraged through worship shared with returning and first-time visitors. The World Pilot Gig Championships at the end of April, closely followed by the

extra Bank Holiday of Coronation weekend are examples of the upcoming community events and celebrations to be shared and enjoyed. Arrangements for worship on these Sundays are yet to be finalised. Details will be made available in due course.

One distinctive aspect of life on Scilly seems to be the way that things can happen at relatively short notice. An example of this was towards the end of March when the Chapel on St. Mary's was privileged to host an exhibition of creative work based on the accounts of the building of the Bishop Rock Lighthouse. These stories from the past were wonderfully brought to life through many different media – embroidery, art, music, modelling, animation, drama, creative writing, cake sculpture
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During the months covered by this edition of the magazine, the Church cycle will move through Holy Week, culminating in the great celebration of Easter and the story of the empowering of the apostles at Pentecost. Bringing to life stories from the past and finding and exploring their present-day significance and relevance is very much the business of the Church. May God's Spirit empower us with the courage, desire and passion to be those who truly live out the story of God's love in our time and place. In and through our attitudes, words and actions of grace, hope and love, may the message of resurrection be re-told.

Wherever you're reading this, whether on-line, on Scilly or on the mainland, I extend to you the warm greetings of the Methodist Circuit and people. Thank you for your interest in our work and witness here. We ask your prayers as we seek to navigate the challenges and opportunities before us.

Sincerely,

Revd. Carole

World Day of Prayer 2023

At 2.00pm on Friday March 3rd thirtyfour adults and five children joined together at St. Mary's Chapel to participate in the World Day of Prayer worship which had been prepared by the Christian women of Taiwan. At a similar time parts of the service were followed in united worship at St. Martin's Anglican Church. The title was "I have heard about your faith."

Once again it was good to have some children and staff from the Five Islands Academy with us at the Chapel. The girls, with the support of their teachers, helped us learn some unknown songs and performed a short role play in which a young girl encouraged her friends to know Jesus, as she did. Also the ends of the pews and pulpit were decorated with colourful paper dragons that other children had made back at school.

I would like to thank everyone who supported the World Day of Prayer this year; those who took on roles, the FIA children and staff (including Head teacher Rachel Gibb who kindly played the piano), and, of course, the congregation. A special mention too for those with nimble fingers and boundless patience who made, in advance, the origami lilies which were distributed by the children during the last hymn. Also, all those who helped with the tea and cake which we all enjoyed after the worship.

I have been able to send the very pleasing sum of £213.10 to the World Day of Prayer organisation, the total of the collections at both services. WDP will distribute all 2023 proceeds between a wide ranging group of international, less well known, charities that support the marginalised and vulnerable, for example 'Tears of Hope' which cares for orphan children in Namibia.

Heather Terry

News from St. Martin's

The delivery of Island Christmas cards by the Brownies, organised by Jackie Perkins, raised £111 for the RNLI - that's quite a few cards at 10p each - well done!

We began January with our Covenant Service when Methodists renew their Covenant with God; always a much needed, revitalising time of the year.

We have also recently shared the World Day of Prayer with our friends in Church. This is a women led, global, ecumenical movement and this year was prepared by the women of Taiwan.

Being part of a huge wave of prayer circling the earth for 38 hours is an incredible experience and this year enabled us to focus on a country that for many years has been caught up in a super-power struggle. How apt, then that the Taiwanese welcome 'Ping-an' means "May God grant you peace, a peaceful relationship with God and with one another".

To take this further, how we all wish for peace in Europe and pray daily for the people of Ukraine. We have only recently been reminded of the sacrifices made in that country by the funeral of Chris Parry from Truro who gave his life whilst saving others.

In a recent service led by Rev'd. Carole, we were reminded of the plight of the 'boat people' who try to visit our shores. People who are desperately looking for a new life. Let us hope, as a Christian country we can provide for their needs and at the same time deal with those who illegally make money out of such vulnerable people.

St. Martin's Island came together on the afternoon of Sunday 5th March for a grand tea party which, together with a magnificent raffle, raised some £1,000 for the aftermath of the earthquake appeal in Turkey and Syria. Brilliant – thank you, Inga, for organising everyone.

I'm afraid this seems to be a regular part of my notes, but we report the passing of another regular member of our congregation, Dick Trafford. Dick and his wife Sheila, have been much loved friends of St. Martin's for many years, owning their holiday home, Rose Villa in Highertown.

Dick had a wicked sense of humour and has always been a part of Island life. He provided a memorial 'cannonade' he had found and had erected by the Millennium Stone at the top of Middletown Hill. He also had a tree planted to commemorate the Golden Jubilee of HM Queen Elizabeth II which flourishes at the top of New Quay.

Dick was 98 and had lived a very full active life, having been a solicitor and also serving in the Royal Navy in WW2. He loved his boats and could usually be seen with his Royal Yacht Squadron cap – always jauntily and proudly worn.

So many fond memories; we send our heartfelt sympathy to his wife, two sons, daughter and their families.

May Spring bring new beginnings with the hope of world peace.

Val Thomas

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A local preacher new to the circuit had an appointment in a little Methodist Church deep in the Welsh valleys.

The senior steward was telling him a little of the church history when the preacher asked him "how long do you want me to preach for?"

"Well now," he said "I normally fill the kettle up and place it on the stove at the start of the sermon, and when you see the steam coming from it, that's the time to finish."

"Mind you," he said, "with some preachers they have been sending us lately, I don't put a lot of water in the kettle!!"

Have you heard God's voice; has your heart been stirred
Are you still prepared to follow?
Have you made a choice to remain and serve,
Though the way be rough and narrow?

*Will you walk the path that will cost you much
And embrace the pain and sorrow?
Will you trust in One who entrusts to you
The disciples of tomorrow?*

Will you use your voice; will you not sit down
When the multitudes are silent?
Will you make a choice to stand your ground
When the crowds are turning violent?

In your city streets will you be God's heart?
Will you listen to the voiceless?
Will you stop and eat, and when friendships start
Will you share your faith with the faithless?

Will you watch the news with the eyes of faith
And believe it could be different?
Will you share your views using words of grace?
Will you leave a thoughtful imprint?

*We will walk the path that will cost us much
And embrace the pain and sorrow.
We will trust in One who entrusts to us
The disciples of tomorrow.*

*Singing the Faith 662
Jacqueline G. Jones*

When you go to Church this Sunday and you feel that old temptation to point out what's wrong with the place; the coffee is lukewarm, the lights are too bright, the temperature is wrong, the music is too loud and, of course, you don't know the songs.

Remember in that moment, there's a Ukrainian Church gathering in subway tunnels to worship while bombs blast overhead.

No coffee, no instrument A-lists, no leader pushing them to worship. They're down there in real time and in real life worshipping the King above all kings as their world is crumbling down.

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Finding Peace

Dear God,
I am learning to be quiet.
Just to be –
and know that you are with me.
Thank you
that I don't need
special words to talk to you,
or even any words at all.
You are here, I am here.
You hold me
in the stillness of this moment.

A New Year's Cruise

I joined my sister and brother-in-law, Janis and Tony, on a cruise to the Canaries in January. We set off on the 14th from Southampton on the *Iona*, a P&O cruise ship divided into 19 decks and a full compliment of 5,200 passengers with 1,800 crew.

The first two days were so rough the promenade deck and swimming pools were out of bounds. We docked in Funchal Madeira on the fourth morning and the sea was very much calmer. We went ashore and took a taxi to the toboggan run high up on the hill. It was great fun zooming down the hill with the chairs being controlled by ropes. We also experienced a cable car ride up the mountain.

Travelling overnight, Tenerife was our next port of call and we joined a coach tour called the *Northern Panorama*, mainly forest, very green and mountainous. Tenerife is shaped like a duck and our trip took us right to the 'beak.'

We visited a beach with black volcanic sand and another with white sand that had been imported from the Sahara Desert.

Back on the *Iona* there was time for a swim or Jacuzzi before our evening meal, followed by a show at the theatre, cinema or a club/bar with a comedian or singer. There was a good variety of evening entertainment.

The morning of the next day we arrived at Grand Canaria Las Palmas. Another bus tour, this time an open top bus – it was sunny but the wind was very cold. During the afternoon we met up with Tony's sister, Annie, who regularly spends two months out there each winter.

On 21st January, our last day in the Canaries, we went ashore at Lanzarote and, after perusing the local shops, we went to the beach and had a picnic.

On the way home we stopped off at Cadiz, Spain and enjoyed another coach tour, calling at a tavern to see flamenco dancing. The next stop was Lisbon, Portugal where we stayed for two days; the first of which was in the countryside to a picturesque village called Obidos. There was lots of little shops and cobblestone streets, really lovely!

Two more days at sea before we arrived back at Southampton. Good food and entertainment; weather could have been better in the Canaries but that is pot luck.

Would I do a cruise again – probably.

Maria Tomlinson

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Giving

On St. Mary's the offering during January amounted to £1,300.00 and in February £900.00. These offerings go towards the quarterly costs which are in excess of £5,000.

During Lent, soup lunches are traditionally held, the first three in the Methodist Hall followed by three in the Church Hall. Donations for Christian Aid from the first three this year have amounted to £400.00 plus Gift Aid. This amount will be added to after the final three lunches.

Thank you to all who have helped and supported this worthy cause.

What a Transformation!

From Nick Fawcett's book 'Daily Prayer 2'

Read

Through the power by which he is able to bring all things under his control, the Lord Jesus Christ will transform our ordinary bodies until they become like his glorious body.

Philippians 3:21

What's the first thing you do when you move into a new home? Almost certainly you'll begin planning how to put your mark upon it: what colour paint or wallpaper to buy, what curtains to hang, how best to arrange the furniture, where to hang pictures, even what structural changes might be needed. You'll most likely scour catalogues, visit the local DIY store, browse in the shops and so forth, not to mention spend hours decorating and cleaning, before finally what was once someone else's home begins to feel like yours. Bit by bit we effect a complete transformation, turning the old into the new.

How good it would be if we could change ourselves as easily as buildings. Though various TV programmes suggest we can do just that, even the best makeover is just skin-deep. Making a difference to the person beneath is a far different proposition. Yet what *we* can't do, *God* can, his love and mercy taking what we are and directing what we shall be. Not that we're ever the finished article – we invariably fall short, our lives marred by human weakness and fallibility – but so long as we seek his help God will continue to restore and renew, transforming us by his grace from what we are to what he wants us to be.

Ask yourself

What things still need changing in your life? On what do you rely to bring about that change: your own efforts or God's transforming power? In what ways has God changed you already?

Pray

Loving God, I want to change, to be more like Jesus, but I can't begin to achieve that alone. I may look the part to some, successfully putting on a good appearance, but the face I display to the world so often conceals the reality beneath. Only you, through the work of your Spirit, can bring about real and lasting transformation. Only you can blot out my transgressions and help me to start again. Take what I am and fashion what I shall be, so that I may change not just on the outside but deep within. Work your miracle of grace within me so that I may become the person you already count me to be, through Jesus Christ my Lord. Amen.

Remember

Do not be conformed to the spirit of the age, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind, so that your life might attest to the good, well-pleasing and perfect will of God.

Romans 12:2

Close

Continue to work within me, Lord, so that I may know and love you better, and my life speak more truly of your saving and transforming love. Amen.

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Songs of Glory

O Master, let me walk with Thee
In lowly paths of service free
Tell me Thy secret, help me bear
The strain of toil, the fret of care.

Teach me Thy patience, still with Thee
In closer, dearer company
In work that keeps faith sweet and strong
In truth that triumphs over wrong.

In hope that sends a shining ray
Far down the future's broadening way
In peace that only Thou canst give
With Thee, O master, let me live.

Washington Gladden

Washington Gladden wrote these lines in 1879 while he was pastor of the Congregational Church in Springfield Massachusetts. Written as a meditation, the poem, titled "Walking with God," was first published in a weekly religious paper called *Sunday Afternoons*. The quiet, meditative nature of the words do not reveal the aggressive, outspoken, crusading spirit of the author. While serving as religious editor of the New York *Independent*, Gladden aided in the exposure of the "Tweed Ring," a group of politicians who controlled New York's City's treasury and got away with millions of dollars.

During his eight year pastorate in Springfield, Gladden's role as a crusader for the practical application of the Christian faith became well known. His Sunday-evening sermons reflected this emphasis, and throngs of people came to hear him preach the social implications of the gospel. In 1882 he became pastor of the First Congregational Church of Columbus, Ohio, where he ministered for thirty-two years. His Sunday evening services were controversial as he continued to apply the gospel of Jesus to the social, political and economic life

of America and the world.

Gladden's published sermons and articles were widely read and he was severely criticized in both the secular and religious press. He castigated his denomination's Board of Foreign Missions for accepting from John D. Rockefeller, Sr., a gift of \$100,000, which Gladden called "tainted money" because of the unfair and monopolistic practices of Standard Oil. He stated his position in two articles, "Tainted Money" and "Standard Oil and Foreign Missions."

Gladden's poem was first published as a hymn the year after it was written, and set to a tune composed by Henry Percy Smith, a minister in the Church of England. The tune was Gladden's choice and proved a most appropriate setting.

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"And their eyes were opened and they knew Him"

This year's Lent Course centred each week on inspirational scripture. We have explored several biblical themes – the history and holiness of God; God's absence and presence; the relationship of human beings with God and with one another. We have seen how they are woven together by God's love and sacrifice which for Christians find their most visible expression in the cross of Christ.

We approach Good Friday with sadness for Jesus' death but with the knowledge that Easter Day comes with the joy of resurrection.

We thank Revd. Carole, Revd. Elizabeth and Fiona for leading us through six weeks of inspiration.

The final sessions will be on Tuesday 4th April in the Methodist Manse at 1030am and in the Chaplaincy at 7p.m.

*David Poynter
Church Warden*

Children Heard and Seen

The number of children who have a parent in prison is not officially recorded. Crest's *Children of Prisoners* report (2019) estimated that there are 312,000 incidences a year of children losing a parent to custody. Unless they are registered or known to children's services for other reasons, none of these children will receive any specific government support. Children impacted by parental imprisonment are a vulnerable group through no wrongdoing of their own.

According to the Ministry of Justice in 2008, 65% of boys with a parent in prison go on to commit an offence themselves. In addition to the behavioural and emotional toll inflicted on the children of prisoners, the cost to the wider community is considerable. It is estimated that every £1 invested in supporting prisoners families could save the taxpayer £11.

Social worker, Sarah Burrows, established the charity *Children Heard and Seen* in 2014 to redress the imbalance. Sarah set up the charity in her spare time when working for Oxfordshire County Council's Pre-Court and Prevention Team. She had noticed the high number of children entering the criminal system.

The charity has come a long way from a part-time operation on an Oxford kitchen table. It has four permanent employees and 35 active volunteers who currently support 160 children. The charity receives referrals from all over the country from Oxfordshire, Essex, Kent and Birmingham.

Sarah has submitted evidence to the joint Subcommittee on Human Rights on the impact of parents in prison and how the needs of the children need to be considered in sentencing.

The charity won the Queen's Award for Voluntary Service in June 2019, the highest award a charitable organisation can receive.

With no government support the voluntary sector must pick up the slack. The charity hopes to gain more funding to expand its weekly groups and the holiday and weekend activities that build children's skills, experience and self esteem. Referrals for such support have come from as far away as the London Borough of Islington.

The charity works co-operatively with professionals and families, using surveys to identify often complex needs and tailor support to where it can be most effective.

Most importantly, there is a pressing need for a national register of prisoners who have children as a first step to identify those who might otherwise be overlooked. There is also a requirement for training and awareness among those working with prisoners' families and children to ensure that these families are not punished any further for something that is not their fault.

Taken from Magnet Magazine - encouraging, enabling, equipping

For more details see:-

www.childrenheardandseen.co.uk/

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We wish God's blessing on all who are celebrating their birthday in April and May.

being honest in prayer ~

Can I do this?

I'd like to think so, Lord,

but the challenge is daunting,

one I've never risen to before,

and, quite frankly, it fills me with terror.

for it call for gifts I'm not sure I have,

courage I'm sure I haven't,

and risks I'd most definitely rather not take.

It feels easier,

safer,

simply to dismiss the idea as a pipedream –

a goal that it's fun to aspire to,

but that I could never realistically hope to fulfil.

Better, surely, to plod along in my own limited ways

than to stride out too far and fall flat on my face.

Yet a little voice within whispers otherwise,

telling me it's not true;

that to run from a challenge is to set myself up for a lifetime of regret,

whereas to face and conquer it is to open up new horizons,

possibilities that would once have seemed impossible.

Deep down, I know that if I would grow,

mature,

realise my potential as a person,
then I must confront my fears head on,
seeing them not as insurmountable barriers,
but as hurdles to leap over,
no matter how many lie in my path.
And though a part of me says I can't do it,
another part says I can,
I must,
and I will.
Give me courage, Lord, to listen to that voice,
and then to respond.

Amen. *From 'Praying Without Pretence' by Nick Fawcett*

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Our Privacy Notice explains how local Churches, Circuits and Districts within the Methodist Church in Great Britain collect, use and protect your personnel information.

The Managing Trustees' Privacy Notice is published on the notice boards in the chapel buildings on St. Mary's and St. Martin's and is available to view online at:-

<https://www.t MCP.org.uk/about/data-protection/managing-trustees-privacy-notice>

Prayer Shawl Ministry

Of the many, many ways in which the warmth of God's love and the care and prayers of the Church can be expressed, the giving of a prayer shawl is a tangible example.

Knowing that we've a number of knitters in the Church community, the Church Council at St. Mary's recently agreed to explore a prayer shawl ministry as a way of extending pastoral care locally and further afield.

The pattern for a prayer shawl is simple, using basic knit and purl stitches. It's important that every shawl is knitted to the same pattern, though the colours will vary.

Prayer shawls differ from other knitting projects in that each knitter is asked to make a commitment of prayer;

- ❖ to pray before the shawl is begun;
- ❖ to knit the shawl with prayer and care;
- ❖ and that on completion, before it is given on behalf of the whole congregation, the shawl will be received at Church for a prayer of blessing to be said over it.

Prayer shawls are given as gifts from the Church, usually with a simple prayer card.

If you're a knitter and you feel able to share in the purpose and prayer commitment of this, and/or if you have balls of chunky wool that would be suitable to donate for this work, please be in touch.

Thank you
Revd. Carole

Shared below is part of an Easter prayer written by the Revd. Michaela Youngson.

The full prayer, and others for the Easter season, can be read on The Methodist Church website:-

<https://www.methodist.org.uk/our-faith/worship/lent-and-easter/prayers-for-lent-and-easter/>

Gracious God,
we praise you for the light of new life
made possible through Jesus.

We praise you for the light of new life
that shone on the first witnesses of resurrection.

We praise you for the light of new life
that continues to shine in our hearts today.

We pray that the Easter light of life, hope and joy
will live in us each day;
and that we will be bearers of that light
into the lives of others.

Amen.

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Prayer Requests

As always, please do feel able to ask Revd. Carole if you would appreciate pastoral contact or the prayers of the Church.

Editorial Team

Jean Duncan, Anne Gurr and Barbara James are the Editorial Team of In Touch. Articles for inclusion in this circuit magazine can be given or sent to them personally or emailed to iosmethodist.mag@gmail.com

Please support our Editors by contributing reflections, stories, news etc. (by 15th of the month, please). We welcome articles from our mainland readers as well as from Scilly.

'In Touch' can also be read online at www.scillymethodists.co.uk

Thanks to www.parishpump.co.uk for the use of their material.

The material in this magazine is from a variety of sources. The opinions and beliefs expressed in individual articles do not necessarily represent or reflect the views of The Methodist Church, the local editorial team or the Minister.

As Charity Trustees, the Circuit Meeting and Church Councils seek prayerfully to act responsibly and with all due care in utilising the resources over which we have stewardship.

In common with other charities, groups and individuals, we are increasingly aware that rising costs are having a major impact in all areas of life and work. Old buildings especially bring particular challenges of costly maintenance.

If you feel able to contribute financially to support the work of The Isles of Scilly Methodist Circuit, St. Mary's Methodist Church or St. Martin's Methodist Church, please contact the Minister for details of the various ways to do this.

The Manse, Church Street, St. Mary's, Isles of Scilly. TR21 0JT
or telephone 01720 422406.



Prayer Requests

As always please do feel able to ask Revd Carole
if you would appreciate pastoral contact
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Provisional Plan of Services

(Please see local notice boards for confirmation of arrangements)

St. Mary's Methodist Church Services

Sun 2 Apr	10.30am	Revd Carole Holmes	Palm Sunday
Sun 9 Apr	6.45am	Sunrise service at Buzza	Easter Day
	10.30am	Revd Carole Holmes (Holy Communion)	
Sun 16 Apr	10.30am	Revd Jo Mulliner	
Sun 23 Apr	10.30am	Local arrangement/Stewards Team	
Sun 30 Apr	time tbc	Revd Carole Holmes	
Sun 7 May	9.30am	Revd Stephen & Mrs. Heather Radford	
Sun 14 May	9.30am	Revd Carole Holmes	
Sun 21 May	9.30am	Revd Loraine Mellor	
Sun 28 May	9.30am	Revd Jane Willcock (Holy Communion)	Pentecost

St. Martin's Methodist Church Services

Sun 2 Apr 3pm	Rev Carole Holmes	
Sun 9 Apr 3pm	Revd Carole Holmes (Holy Communion)	
Sun 16 Apr 11am	Revd Carole Holmes	
Sun 23 Apr 11am	Revd Carole Holmes	
Sun 30 Apr 11am	Mr. Christopher Savill	
Sun 7 May 11am	Revd Carole Holmes	
Sun 14 May 11am	Revd Stephen & Mrs. Heather Radford	
Sun 21 May 3pm	Revd Loraine Mellor	
Sun 28 May 11am	Revd Carole Holmes (Holy Communion)	Pentecost